

*Editor, Week, Toronto. John Fraser*

HISTORIC CANADIAN GROUND

THE LA SALLE HOMESTEAD OF 1666

AND

OTHER OLD LANDMARKS OF FRENCH CANADA

ON

THE LOWER LACHINE ROAD.

ILLUSTRATED.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "CANADIAN PEN AND  
INK SKETCHES."




MONTREAL :

"WITNESS" PRINTING HOUSE.

1892.

*"Relics of Champlain"  
week, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1892.*





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*Alfred Cauchet Sr.  
la fille & de la fille*

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## PREFACE.

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THE LA SALLE HOMESTEAD,  
LACHINE RAPIDS, CANADA,  
June, 1892.

I have pleasure in placing before the public this small pamphlet, containing an account, with illustrations, of the old landmarks of French Canada on the Lower Lachine Road, from the head of the Lachine Rapids—a distance of over two miles—up to the Windmill, embracing the La Salle Common of 1666, the old English King's Posts of 1812, the site of Champlain's Fur-trading Post of 1615, the La Salle Homestead of 1666, the ruins of Fort Cuillerier of 1676, the celebrated Penner Farm, the palisaded Village of Lachine of 1666, the French Catholic Parish Church of 1701, and the old Windmill: all deeply interesting to Canadians in general, and to students of history in particular.

JOHN FRASER.





THE LA SALLE HOMESTEAD AT LACHINE, 1666,  
AND  
THE GRAND OLD CHIMNEY OF CHAMPLAIN'S FUR-  
TRADING POST OF 1615.

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It is recorded in Canadian history that sometime between the years 1609 and 1615, Champlain, then Governor of French Canada, established three fur-trading POSTS in the colony; one at Tadousac; one at Three Rivers; the other at Lachine, at the head of the Sault St. Louis, the present Lachine Rapids. This was done some thirty years before the foundation of Montreal by Maisonneuve in 1642, and a dozen to fifteen years before the formation of the company of the "One Hundred Associates."

The post at Lachine being just below the junction of the Ottawa with the St. Lawrence, about eight miles from Montreal, became the most important trading post in the whole Colony, and was periodically visited, spring and fall, by the various tribes of Indians living on the shores of the Upper Ottawa and the Lakes emptying into the St. Lawrence, to sell or to exchange their furs.

It was built about two miles above the Lachine Rapids, on the north bank of the St. Lawrence; just at the present head entrance of the "New Inland Cut," of the Montreal Water Works, at the foot of the "Fraser Hill," on the site of the ruins

of the old stone building now known as "Fort Cuillerier" or the "Cuillerier House."

Champlain's post was established about fifty years before La Salle came to Lachine in 1666; and it was in this old post that La Salle established his home or Manor House; and the old chimney which still stands within the ruined walls of the Cuillerier House is the same chimney which stood within the wooden walls of Champlain's fur trading post of 1615, nearly three centuries ago, as we shall hereafter shew.

This old post of Champlain's day was the only building standing at Lachine when La Salle took possession of the land granted him by the gentlemen of the Seminary of St. Sulpice in 1666, and, in it he, La Salle, established his headquarters until such time as he had laid out and completed his palisaded village, which was one mile farther west, on the bank of the St. Lawrence, just between the present Windmill and the Cross road leading through to Cote St. Paul.

Champlain's post was built of wood; of heavy timber, as the inside remains still shew. The only mason work connected with it was its CHIMNEY or FIRE PLACE, which still stands within the ruins of the Cuillerier House; it is the most remarkable fire place or piece of old masonry now standing in all Canada, bearing evidence of its antiquity, and is still in a state of good preservation, except that portion of it above the roof.

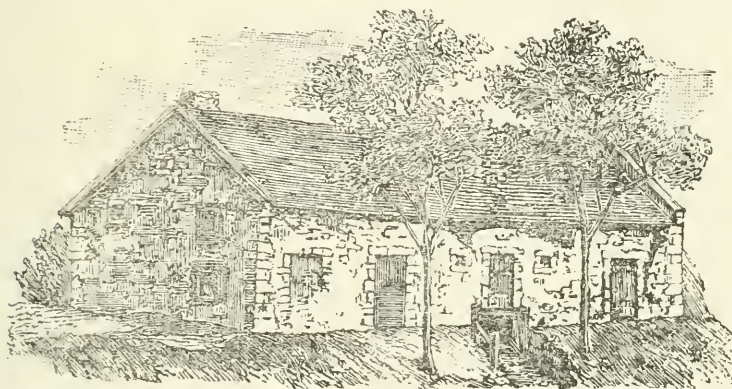
When La Salle had completed his palisaded village, which took him about two years, he transferred the fur-trading business from Champlain's old post to his palisaded village.

In later years, about six years after La Salle had left Lachine, sometime between the years 1673 and 1676, Rene Cuillerier got possession of Champlain's old post, which had been deserted, as a trading post ever since La Salle had transferred the fur-trading business to his palisaded village.

Cuillerier then converted the post into a fort, and he must have palisaded it all round, because Vaudreuil took shelter there with his 500 men on his way back to Montreal from the scene of the massacre of Lachine, on the night of the 5th of August, 1689. .

## THE CUILLERIER HOUSE.

Below is a true picture of the "Cuillerier House"—now in ruins—as it appeared until the year 1886. This house, the reader will bear in mind, stands upon the site of Champlain's fur post of 1615; and that Cuillerier, between the years 1673 and 1676, converted the old fur post into a fort; and it is on record in the papers of the Cuillerier family that the present stone building, the "Cuillerier House," was commenced to be built of stone, by the Cuilleriers about the year 1700. The first portion built was at the west end of the building—say 23 feet fronting on the Lower Lachine Road, by 26 feet in depth,



French measure, and later on the Cuilleriers continued the building to its present frontage.

The part, first built of stone by the Cuilleriers, 23 by 26, was built against the chimney which stood within the old fur post; an inspection of the present walls shews that the west end gable wall of the Cuillerier House is, or rather was, built against the old chimney, which was the chimney or fire place which stood within the wooden structure of Champlain's fur-trading post of 1615, when La Salle took possession of that post in 1666.

This old building, the Cuillerier House, stands at the foot of the Fraser Hill, two miles above the Lachine Rapids: it has a frontage on the Lower Lachine Road, facing the St. Lawrence

of 56 feet 6 inches, with a depth of 27 feet 3 inches, French measurement (being 60 feet 4 inches by 29 feet, English.) It had about 30 gun, or loop holes, on front, rear and sides. These gun holes have all been plastered over to secure the building from frost, to protect it for the purposes for which it had been used during the past hundred years. But, inside, the gun holes were quite perfect until very lately

For a part of the present century this old building had been used as a CIDER HOUSE. The old cider mill and the cider presses can still be seen in the ruins. During the war of 1812 it had been used as a barracks; and we believe, it was also used as a Military Hospital during the war, being close by and adjoining the English King's posts of 1812.

The river front of this old building is, without question, the most interesting, historical spot, in all Canada. It was, to this spot, in 1609, that Champlain came up to embark in an Indian canoe, to have a sail down the Old SAULT ST. LOUIS—the present Lachine Rapids. This is the first spot of smooth water from which a canoe could shoot out to reach the channel of the river above the rapids. It was here, over fifty years before La Salle's day, that Champlain's fur-trading post was established.

Let us try to draw a picture of those far-off days—nearly three centuries ago, when Champlain stood at the foot of the "Fraser Hill," at the head of that once beautiful little bay—now destroyed by the Water Works Basin, surrounded by his escort band of wild Iroquois, with their canoes hauled up on the quiet shore, beneath the shade of the far-spreading primeval elms, ready to embark to sail down those now far-famed rapids. This spot should be held sacred by Canadians for all time. Fancy Champlain's feelings as he embarked in his canoe to be paddled out to reach the channel of the river leading down through the centre of the Great Rapids; The excitement and the novelty of the sail would almost make him forget or be oblivious of the danger!

#### THE ENGLISH KING'S POSTS OF 1812.

The English King's posts of 1812 stood on the North bank of the St. Lawrence, right in front of the La Salle Homestead;

and we now enter upon the task of picturing it—the old post—as we remember it at the time of its evacuation over SIXTY YEARS AGO, in 1826 or 1827. The writer saw the last soldier leave, bag and baggage, and he remembers and was at the “Vandue,” as the Scotch farmers called the sale by the Government of all the buildings, land, &c.

This was the most celebrated military post in all Canada during the war of 1812. Every British soldier, every British Regiment, with their guns, ammunition, stores and baggage, sailed westward in bateaux from this place, and landed here on their return from Upper Canada at the close of the war. This was the place of embarkation westwards before the building of the Lachine Canal. During the war it was a common sight to see over fifty bateaux, filled with soldiers, leave this post in one day, on their way to join the army on the Niagara frontier.

This was the headquarters of our little army of defence during the American advance by way of Chateauguay, under Hampton, in October, 1813. And every farm house from this place up to near Pointe Claire was billeted with regulars or militia. La Salle's old home, near by, had sixty men billeted in it. This was Captain Moffat's company of Montreal militia. The late Mr. Ernest Idler once told the writer that he, as one of the sixty, was stationed in that old house for six weeks.

The eastern land boundary of the King's Posts was just where the New Inland Cut of the Montreal Water Works enters inland. It had a frontage on the King's highway of three arpents, being the whole front of one of the farms, up to where the old powder magazine still stands; the eastern and western boundaries were marked by large stone posts with “G. R.” and the broad arrow. The depth was about two acres, making about six acres in superficies.

#### THE BUILDINGS.

Commencing at the eastern end, next to the Water Works' entrance, was the bake and cook house; next to it is an old stone building, still standing, about fifty feet fronting on the

Lower Lachine Road, one storey and a half high, and about thirty feet deep.

This building was used as the officers' quarters.

#### THE FINLAY HOUSE.

Adjoining the old stone building is the "Finlay House." John Finlay was the head officer of the King's post, and acted as commissary general or something in that way. He attended to the receiving and forwarding of the government stores. It was he who engaged the voyageurs and boatmen to man the boats going west. He was looked upon as King of the King's posts.

The Finlay House was built at the commencement of the war of 1812, and still stands—but a mere wreck of what it once was! It was built of heavy timber, a double house, two storeys, about 40 by 40, lined with brick and clap-boarded outside. It was a grand house—the rooms were large and roomy. This house was the resting place of all the general officers passing up or down during the war. There were several houses of the same description built by the government at that time, notably at Coteau du Lac and at Chambly.

This house had a beautiful front—tastefully laid out, and planted with flowers, &c., and lined in front and by the side with Lombardy poplars, the fashionable tree of old days in Lower Canada. It had its coach house and stabling: these are all gone. There was also a garden in rear of about two acres, planted with all kinds of choice fruit, &c., and carefully attended to. There is nothing now left to mark where a garden had been.

Since Mr. Finlay's day, this house has had many occupants. A Mr. Price, an English gentleman, lived there a few years and died there about 1833. The late Colonel Wilgress occupied it for a short time on his arrival in this country. Mr. Davidson, late of the Bank of Montreal, had it for a summer residence for a few years. Then, among many others, the most noted of whom, the Rev. Wm. Bond (Bishop Bond), lived there five years, and it has ever since been known as the "Bond House."



Next to the Finlay House there stood a long wooden building about 70 feet front by 30 to 40 deep, having a stone foundation. This building, we believe was the soldiers' barracks. Next to this is an old stone building, still standing, and now used as a horse stable. We do not know what this building was used for. It may have been for a canteen, or a place to serve out the soldier's rations. Adjoining this is the old powder magazine, partly standing. A notable military relic of departed days!

On the river shore, opposite the powder magazine, was the military wharf; it had a frontage on the river of about 200 feet, with a revetment wall made of heavy timber, having a depth of five to six feet of water at low water mark.

There stood on this wharf, the whole length of it, two long large warehouses built of heavy timber, capable of storing an immense quantity of war-like stores. They had a second flat for lighter goods, which could be utilized as barrack quarters in an emergency. At the east end of these buildings was the main guard. The writer remembers seeing some of the last soldiers on sentry there.

The Water Works Basin has entirely destroyed this old wharf. Farther down, on the river shore, just opposite to where the old bake house stood, was the "Black Hole." A little farther down, on the river bank, about the centre of the Water Works entrance, stood another large wooden warehouse. In this building a room was set apart for Divine service for the troops. The Rev. Brook Bridges Stevens was chaplain to the forces there.

#### THE STAFF CORPS BARRACKS.

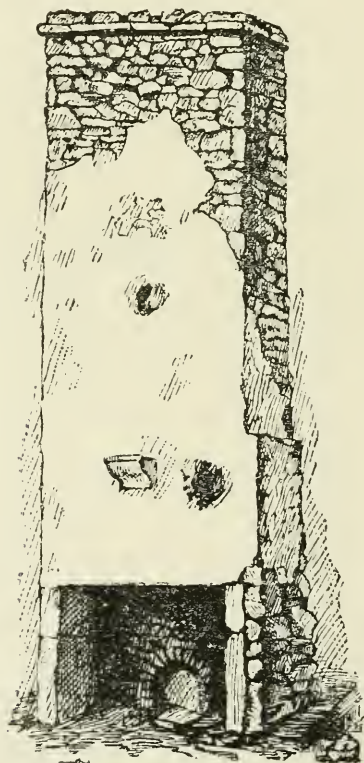
There was another frame building which stood inland, on the commons, just where the commons joined the eastern King's post boundary. This building was a square of sheds, about, or over, one hundred feet square, some twenty feet high and twenty-five feet deep, having double tiers of sleeping berths, and in the centre, in the inside of the square, was a cook house.

These sheds or barracks went by the name of the "Staff Corps Barracks." We suppose they were used by the old settlers passing up when detained at the post waiting for a boat.

We have given, to the best of our ability, a true description of the buildings standing at this old post at the time of its evacuation.

At the "vandue," or sale, Mr. Penner purchased the land belonging to the government, and later on he acquired the rear of that farm.

The two large buildings on the wharf stood there until within the past forty years, and were used by Mr. Penner as a sleeping place for his hop-pickers. There would usually be fully two hundred hop-pickers during the hop-picking season, in the month of September of each year.



The Old Chimney of Champlain's Post of 1615



## THE OLD CHIMNEY OF CHAMPLAIN'S FUR POST OF 1615.

This old chimney has a history stretching far into and over the by-gone centuries of early Canadian days (being built over thirty years before Maisonneuve's day) long before the foundation stone was laid in this queenly city of Montreal: with its now noble structures and princely mansions, basking under the shade of our stately MOUNT ROYAL. Long before a parish church bell was heard in the ancient town of VILLE MARIE, summoning the little bands of devout worshippers to their early matins: long before those days of early Canadian history did this old chimney stand, within the wooden walls of Champlain's fur trading post, as it still stands, on the bank of the St. Lawrence, two miles above the Lachine Rapids, within the now ruined walls of the "Cuillier House," a notable relic of early Canadian days.

The dimensions of this old chimney are, 28 feet 6 inches high; 9 feet broad at the base and 3 feet 6 inches thick. The fire place has an open front of 6 feet 3 inches, a height of 4 feet 3 inches, and a depth of 2 feet, making an open fire place of about fifty square feet, English measure; built of solid masonry. There was a large oven in rear of the chimney, having an opening as may be seen, through the front of the fireplace. The oven is now in ruins, covered over with *débris*. But the chimney itself is in a state of good preservation for about 24 feet high—that is, all is perfect except that portion above the roof.

The immediate portion of the old building around the fireplace appears to have been the chief room and offices of the fur company of 1615. This portion had no cellar under it, the other portion—the whole length of the building—had a cellar, except where the chimney stands.

The writer remembers, over sixty years ago, when there was a fine room and office in front of this fire place; these were then demolished to make room for a cider press. This room and office stood in the western portion of Champlain's trading-post in 1666, when La Salle took possession of this place; and there, in this old post, he established his home or Manor House

for about two years, until he had erected his *log-cabin* in his palisaded village, about one mile farther west.

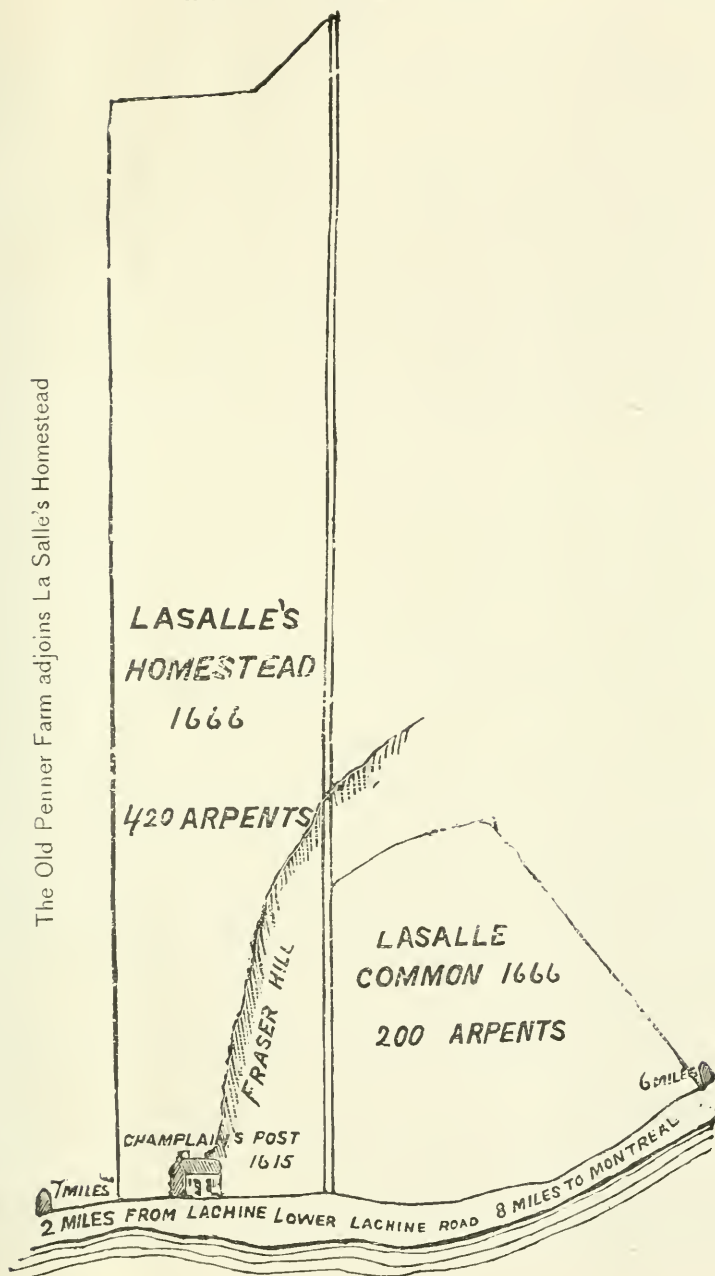
There is the clearest evidence existing that the first portion of the "Cuillerier House," 23 by 26, which was commenced to be built of stone about the year 1700, was built against a former wooden building standing on that site, as the joining of the west gable-end wall to the old chimney shews. The walls testify to this fact; and the old *rafters* and *beams*, of the former wooden building, from *end to end* of the building, about 60 feet, are still there, clearly establishing this fact:—that the old chimney of Champlain's trading-post of 1615 is fully EIGHTY YEARS older than the present "Cuillerier House," within whose walls it now stands.

This was the home of Robert de La Salle, a name dear to all Canadians. How few now know of its existence, and fewer still of its whereabouts! Its walls have withstood the rough blasts of nearly three centuries. The waters of the St. Lawrence still glide quietly by it as of old, but the rich fur-laden fleets of Indian canoes no longer visit that spot, nor is the merry song of the Canadian voyageur now heard there. Those days are gone!

La Salle needs no monument along our mountain slope. "No storied urn nor animated bust," to perpetuate or to transmit to future generations the great deeds of his purely unselfish life! This whole northern continent of America, boundless and vast, bears unmistakeable traces of his footsteps.

His life was devoted to, and finally sacrificed, in the endeavour to extend the boundaries of his native land—Old France! His discoveries and explorations were all made in the interest of the land of his birth, the country he loved; therefore, so long as the noble St. Lawrence winds its course seaward, and our vast inland lakes exist as feeders thereof, or the great and broad Mississippi rolls its mighty waters to the main, these river banks and those lake shores—if all else were mute—will ever silently testify to the memory of that youthful explorer, La Salle, who first trod or traced their far western or southern shores.

The Old Penner Farm adjoins La Salle's Homestead



## THE LA SALLE HOMESTEAD AND COMMON OF 1666.

On page "7" of Parkman's *La Salle*, we read :—"La Salle set apart a common of two hundred arpents in extent, for the use of the settlers, on condition of the payment by each of five sous a year ; he reserved four hundred and twenty arpents for for his own personal domain ; he had traced out the circuit of a palisaded village and assigned to each settler half an arpent, or about the third of an acre, within the enclosure."

This Homestead, situated on the Lower Lachine Road, facing the St. Lawrence, two miles above the Lachine Rapids, about eight miles from Montreal and two miles from the present town of Lachine, being composed of the present three farms of the "Fraser estate;" having a frontage of nine arpents on the Lower Lachine Road, with a depth of forty-six and two-third arpents, making four hundred and twenty arpents, which tallies exactly with Parkman's account. The common of two hundred arpents joined the homestead, having a small cart road between them of about thirty feet.

This common had a frontage of about fifteen arpents, facing the St. Lawrence, its eastern boundary being at the present SIX MILE POST on the Lower Lachine Road. It ran back to the high land in the rear, being in shape something like a half moon or bee hive. This common was parcelled out in 1835 among the neighbouring farmers and is now covered with cottages and planted with orchards. The three farms comprising the homestead are still intact ; and the whole, the homestead and the common, can be as easily pointed to as in La Salle's day. The celebrated English King's Posts, during the war of 1812, stood right in front of the La Salle Homestead, on the bank of the St. Lawrence.

As before stated, for about two years of his residence at Lachine, La Salle lived in and had his headquarters at Champlain's fur post, on the present "Fraser estate," about one mile from the palisaded village ; because there was no other building at that time, 1666, at Lachine to live in. He was preparing his reserved homestead for his permanent home. It already had an apple and pear orchard planted on it by the people of

Champlain's post; but he became restless in 1669, and then left on his exploring expeditions, westwards and southwards, never again to return to this place.

Shortly after La Salle came to Lachine he traced out the circuit of a palisaded village, just between the present windmill and the cross road, leading to Cote St. Paul, consisting of fourteen arpents, being seven arpents fronting on the St. Lawrence, by two arpents in depth; as shewn on the following drawing made in 1689, twenty years after La Salle had left Lachine.

The Lachine shore landing of the present St. Lawrence bridge is just the very centre of the spot where the palisaded village of Lachine stood in the year 1666.

#### THE PENNER FARM AT LOWER LACHINE.

The old Penner farm, of about five hundred acres, adjoins the La Salle Homestead. It is now the property of Mr. Doran. The late Charles Penner, a native of Herefordshire, England, came to Canada before the war of 1812, and was instrumental in organizing the first troop of Montreal cavalry. After the war he settled at Lachine on this farm, and was the father of the Lachine troop of cavalry. During the troubles of 1837 and 1838 he commanded the "Lachine Brigade," consisting of one troop of cavalry and four companies of foot.

#### PENNER'S HOP FIELDS.

Very few of the present generation would hardly realize that over sixty years ago there was a farm within eight miles of Montreal having seventy acres of hops growing on it. This will be interesting news to Englishmen from the hop growing counties of England and to hop-growers in the United States.

The writer remembers when Mr. Penner had twelve fields under hops, each field of about six acres. Not a weed nor a blade of grass could be found on the whole fields, so perfect was the culture.

#### PENNER'S CIDER.

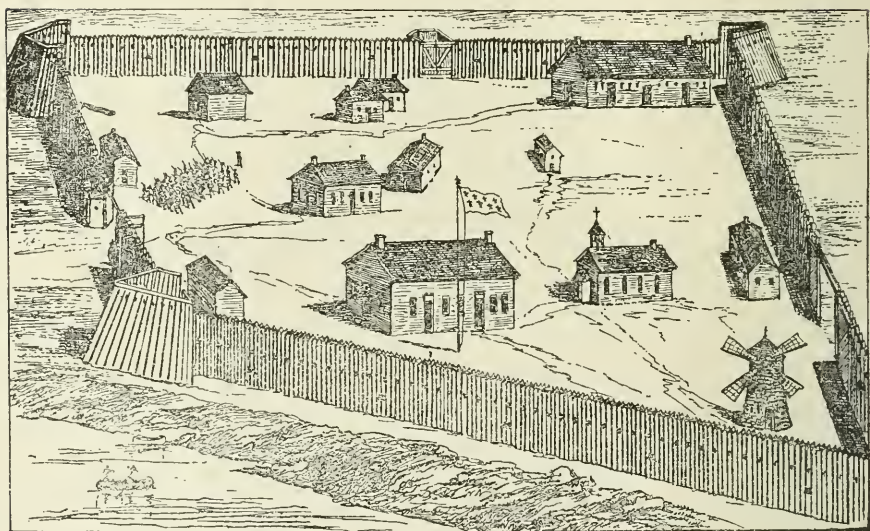
Every Canadian has heard of "Penner's Cider," so famed all over Canada, but few know or would believe of the extent of

his manufacture and the quantity of apples produced in early days in Lower Canada.

In the autumn of 1831 apples were so plentiful that Mr. Penner purchased sufficient apples to make four hundred puncheons of cider, equal to fifteen hundred barrels.

Besides his hop fields and his cider business Mr. Penner was known far and near for his fine stock of imported cattle, particularly his sheep, which found purchasers even in the United States.

After disposing of his property at Lachine he moved to Kingston, Ontario, where he died some fifteen years ago. Aged eighty-seven. Peace to his memory.



THE PALISADED VILLAGE OF LACHINE OF 1666.

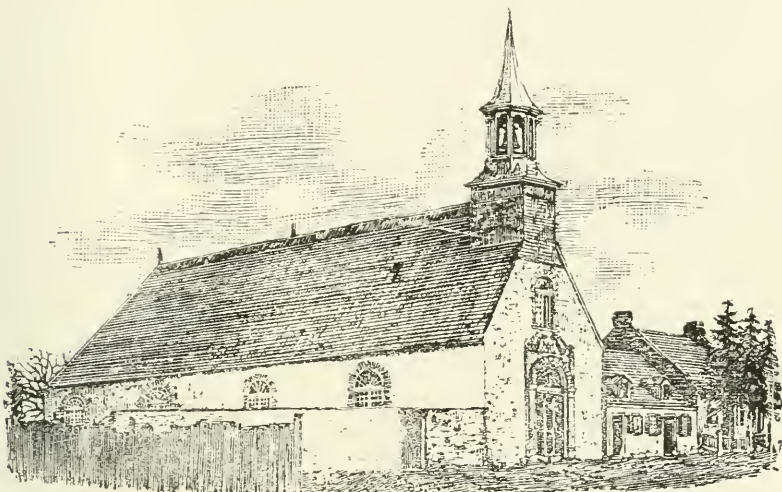
This drawing of the palisaded village was made in 1689, twenty years after La Salle had left Lachine; therefore, the reader of the present day must not be deceived into the belief that this is a picture of the village as it was in La Salle's day. It is no such thing. The only building then standing in it was La Salle's little log cabin, that one with the flag flying, which



was afterwards enlarged by Jean Millot for the purposes of his trade, having purchased La Salle's rights to the village.

The principal buildings, as shown on the drawing, such as the WINDMILL, the CHAPEL, the BARRACKS, and the whole of the other buildings enclosed within the walls, known later on as: "Fort Remy," were not built for some years later, some of the buildings were not built for nearly ten years after LaSalle had left.

To his palisaded village La Salle transferred the fur business, which had been carried on for over fifty years at Champlain's old post: but is it a singular fact that after the attempt by



The Old Catholic Parish Church of Lachine, 1701 to 1869.

Jean Millot to carry on the fur business at the palisaded village had failed, that Cuillierier, about the year 1676, re-established the fur business at Champlain's old post; and that Cuillierier and his successors carried on an extensive business there for nearly a century after La Salle's day in that old building now known as "Fort Cuillierier" or the "Cuillierier House."

It may be here stated that the old post—Champlain's—stood quite close to the river bank, not over ten feet high, above high water mark, and the Indian canoes could approach close by it; but the bank at the palisaded village was over one

hundred feet high, having a rough and strong current on the river shore—a dangerous landing place; whereas, at the old post—Champlain's—the water was smooth, with a quiet bay to protect and shelter the canoes.

#### THE OLD CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH OF LACHINE, 1701 TO 1869.

The old Catholic parish church of Lachine, which was built of stone in the year 1701, being thirty-two years after La Salle had left Lachine, was built nearly in the very centre of the palisaded village. This old church stood there for one hundred and sixty-eight years, until the year 1869, when it was demolished to give place to the present novitiate of the Fathers Oblats. This novitiate, with the land thereto belonging, covers about one-half of the ground of the palisaded village of 1666. The new Catholic parish church is built about two miles west from the site of the old church. It stands in about the centre of the present town of Lachine.

#### THE VILLAGE CHURCHYARD.

Close by—on the west side and attached to the old church—was the burial place for over two centuries of the Catholic dead of Lachine. Over ten generations of the French families of Lachine were buried there!

Many men who had lived there in La Salle's day, and who were his companions in labour and travel found a last resting place within the walls of that little churchyard.

We deeply regret the necessity which caused the breaking up of that old burying ground and to have disturbed the graves of so many of the pioneers of French Canada.

The words of the poet Gray may very appropriately be used here:

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid  
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;  
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,  
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre:

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast  
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;  
Some mute, inglorious Milton here may rest,  
Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.



It is to be regretted that the old landmarks of French Canada are disappearing so rapidly, one by one, that soon, very soon, we shall not have a score of those left standing that were standing when Canada was a French colony. That grand old church was as familiar to the writer when a boy as was his own home a mile distant. A picture of nearly three score years and ten rises vividly before him every time he passes the site of the old church. He recalls the once familiar face of the good old priest, Father Duranceau, who always sat on the gallery in front of his house, with his open book in hand. He knew all the boys, Catholic and Protestant, by name as they passed upwards to the Lachine Grammar School. He had a kind word for each boy; peace to his memory!

Everything has changed and is changing in and around this historical-storied point; the first little wooden Catholic chapel, built in the year 1676, disappeared nearly two hundred years ago: and Fort Remy—which was standing inside the palisades of the old village at the time of the massacre of Lachine, in the year 1689, fell into ruins a few years later. But the name and the memory of La Salle and his palisaded village of 1666 are household words, extending over this whole northern continent of America, and will live through all ages and ever be fresh in the memory and be held in almost sacred veneration by generations yet unborn! Yes: even so long as the waters of the noble St. Lawrence and the waters of the great Mississippi continue to flow; even so long will the name and the memory of La Salle—as associated with the early history of these two great rivers—be upheld on the pages of Canadian and American history as the greatest inland explorer of Canada and the United States.

There is not now a vestige remaining of La Salle's palisaded village of 1666, to mark the spot; buildings and palisades were all constructed of wood and they have, long ago, crumbled down and mingled with the dust of ages! And for the past hundred years, and even longer, the very site and the very name of the palisaded village of 1666 have been entirely forgotten and even blotted out of local tradition.

Nothing now remains of La Salle's day at Lachine except that grand old chimney of Champlain's fur-trading post of 1615, which still stands within the ruins of the CUILLERIE HOUSE.

That grand old fire-place is now the only relic left standing in all Canada, or even America, with which the name of La Salle can be associated. It has stood there for nearly three centuries—a silent sentinel of a by-gone age!

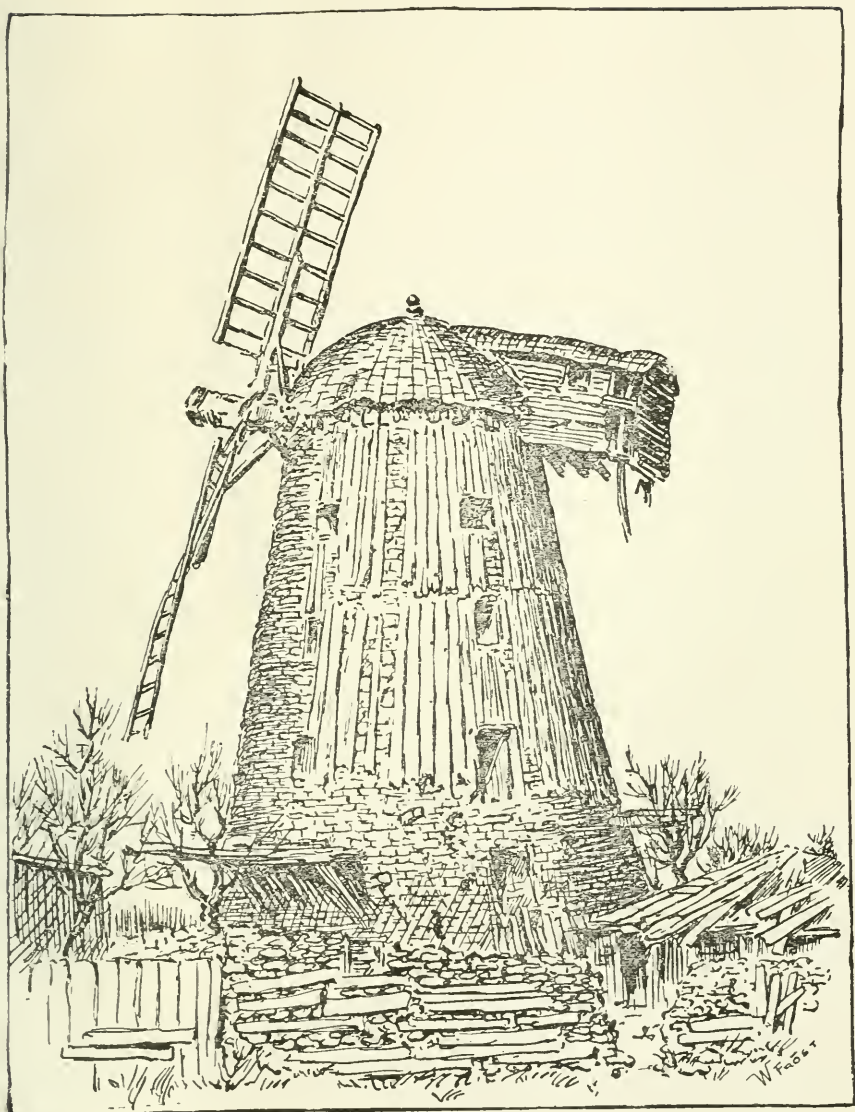
#### THE WINDMILL.

This old windmill is a standing monument to the memory of a determined, stubborn Scotchman—"that indignant spirit of the north,"—in resisting the pretensions of the wealthiest, the greatest corporation in Lower Canada, to prevent him building his mill.

When the late Mr. Fleming commenced the building of his mill for the manufacture of oatmeal, the gentlemen of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, as Seigneurs of the Island of Montreal, claimed that they alone had the right of building mills of any description. Mr. Fleming thought differently; he admitted if they controlled the water privileges their charter gave them no control over the "winds of heaven" nor of any other power a man may utilize for the purpose of running his mill.

A long law suit was the result, the late Mr. Buchanan, K.C., was Mr. Fleming's legal adviser. We forget exactly how this case ended. It is all in the law Reports. We believe, however, that the Seminary, after a long contest, allowed the matter to drop and permitted Mr. Fleming to finish his mill. The old mill stands firm and solid, with its four wings, but without any sails, as it has not been much used for the past forty years. It looks like a Martello tower, and may stand for centuries; a monument to the memory of a determined Scotchman!

The present and the original mill have stood there for over two hundred years; being the only vestige remaining to connect the old village of Lachine with the present day. The present mill was partly or wholly built within this century, and was principally used by the late Mr. Fleming for the manufacture of oatmeal. So limited was the demand sixty or seventy



The Windmill.

years ago that Mr. Fleming manufactured sufficient oatmeal to satisfy the demands of the cities of Quebec and Montreal. The old mill is close by the eight-mile post from Montreal on the Lower Lachine Road, and within one mile distant from the present town of Lachine. Directly opposite to the windmill on the south shore of the St. Lawrence stands the old Indian town of Caughnawaga, the home of the Iroquois. From this Windmill Point you have a full clear view of Lake St. Louis, as far as the eye can reach. This was the actual point of land from which the early explorers of old France had their first full view of Lake St. Louis, impressing upon them the belief that the large body of inland water spread out before them was the "water way" or channel, which they had hoped to find, leading through Canada to China, and which called forth from them the exclamation, "La Chine !" Hence the name, "Lachine," given to this place.

If you could manage to reach this Windmill Point by the Lower Lachine Road on a clear, calm summer afternoon, at about half an hour before sunset, you would be repaid by one of the most charming sights to be had on the whole Island of Montreal. There, right before you, is spread out like a mirror the smooth, silvery waters of Lake St. Louis, extending westwards about twenty miles, dancing in gorgeous colors beneath the rays of the setting sun, without a ripple on its broad surface of over two hundred square miles;—even up to and beyond the shores of Isle Perrot, and reaching across to the small islands on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, above the Caughnawaga point, bordering on the Chateauguay shore.

#### THE PRIMEVAL BEAUTY OF THIS RIVER SHORE.

The writer is one of the very few now living, who can recall in its almost primeval beauty this once romantic river shore; nearly every footstep on this Lower Lachine Road, for two miles—from the old Windmill down to the foot of the La Salle common—is storied, almost hallowed ground, closely associated with the names of all the missionaries, pioneers and early explorers of French Canada; embracing in these two short

miles: the La Salle common of 1666, the English King's post of 1812, the La Salle Homestead of 1666, the site of Champlain's fur-trading post of 1615, the ruins of Fort Cuillerier, the celebrated "Penner farm," and the Novitiate of the Fathers Oblats, which stands in the very centre of La Salle's palisaded village of 1666. And last, but not least, the present St. Lawrence bridge which spans the St. Lawrence between the Caughnawaga and Lachine shores. Scenes of my childhood; home of my early days! I love to dwell on each familiar spot and linger to depart!

#### "THE HIGHLANDS."

This is the name of a new town or suburb, laid out last year, 1891. The first portion laid out is that farm, Mrs. Conway's, lying between the novitiate of the Fathers Oblats and the wind-mill; and will, in course of time, extend westward up to the town of Lachine; and eastward down the Lower Lachine Road to the site of the English King's posts of 1812. We must confess, we do not like the name "Highlands," as given to this new town. It should, we think, be named "La Salle."

It is to be regretted that this new town or suburb of Montreal had not been laid out earlier: at least before the "Montreal Junction" was laid out. The Highlands has the double advantage of fronting on the St. Lawrence and on the Lower Lachine Road, and also of having that magnificent body of water—Lake St. Louis—always in front and in view. It is beautiful for situation: its foundation was laid out two and a quarter centuries ago by La Salle, himself! therefore, its historical associations link and connect the past with the present of Canada.

#### THE ST. LAWRENCE BRIDGE (C. P. R.)

This grand St. Lawrence bridge is "a thing of beauty" as it spans the St. Lawrence between the Caughnawaga and the Lachine shores—built of iron. Its length from shore to shore is 3,660 feet, which consists of the following spans: three spans of 80 feet—plate girders; eight spans of 242 feet—deck spans; two spans of 270 feet—flanking spans; two spans of 408 feet—through channel spans; and one span of 120 feet. The iron or



metal required to build the bridge was 9,035,296 lbs. The total cost was about one million dollars. This bridge was built for the entrance of the South-Eastern Railway into Montreal. It is now the property of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and is the outlet of the C. P. R. from Montreal to the United States. The Lachine shore landing of this bridge is just at the very centre of the palisaded village of 1666. The "Highlands" station stands inland about three acres from the Lower Lachine Road. The approach to the station, on foot or in a carriage, is very much complained of, and justly so, by the people of that neighbourhood.

#### THE LAKE ST. LOUIS ICE.

Our readers may not be aware that there is over two hundred square miles of solid ice on Lake St. Louis and the Ottawa to find its outlet every spring down the St. Lawrence, and to force its way through that narrow gorge of about two miles between Caughnawaga and the Windmill Point, just where the lake narrows into the river, and very few of our readers have ever witnessed a grand shove of ice there, crashing, jamming, and roaring like thunder, forcing up boulders, tons weight, from the bed of the river, placing them high and dry on the shore, even as far down as the Penner farm, a mile below this.

#### A GRAND SHOVE.

The writer has witnessed many grand shoves there, but one in particular, in his young days when attending the old grammar school at Lachine. This was a morning about the end of April—he forgets the year—just as he was passing the Windmill Point on his way to school. The ice in the distance, up Lake St. Louis, was seen to be on the move, floating majestically down, gathering speed from the increasing current, a white mist of foam denoting its near approach. The body of ice was large, must have been from twenty to thirty square miles, a solid, unbroken mass, until it reached the Caughnawaga Point.

Then with a thunder-like crash it struck the Caughnawaga shore and the Windmill Point on this side! The very shore trembled with the rebound! For a minute or two the ice came

to a standstill, then with a mighty crash it gave way, heaving half way up the river bank at the Windmill Point! This is the exposed spot where those tiny pillars of that beautiful structure—the St. Lawrence bridge—stand, bidding defiance to the onward march of the Ice King of some coming spring!

#### THE INDIAN CAMP OF 1689.

The Iroquois were not wanting in military tactics; to conceal their whereabouts from their enemy—the French—after the massacre of Lachine on the 4th day of August, 1689, they hauled up their canoes about a mile into the deep forest, where they established their camp or headquarters; their plunder was carried there. They found in the trading stores at Lachine a large supply of French brandy and wines, of which they supplied themselves freely, and became beastly drunk for days.

The exact position of this “Indian Camp of 1689” is not known to the present generation: but to the boys of the old Grammar school of Lachine of sixty years ago it was a familiar spot. The boys then, with their bows and arrows and fishing lines, with hooks made from pins, used to fish there for brook trout and minnows in that branch of the St. Pierre which ran back of Lachine and crossed the Upper Lachine Road near by the present Blue Bonnets.

It was then a large stream, having a depth of two or three feet of water in midsummer. It has since disappeared—dried up—by new water-courses having been cut.

This camp was over a mile from the river shore, close by the present Dominion station, on the Lachine railway, and extending back to the foot of Côte St. Luke. The branch of the St. Pierre passed through the centre of the camp; to this place, in the then deep forest, the Iroquois hauled up their canoes. It is not improbable that in those early days scouting parties from this camp found sufficient depth of water to use their canoes to pass on close to Montreal through that deep marsh, between Côte St. Paul and Côte St. Pierre, which was a Lake in early days; if so, their camp was wisely selected for offensive operations, being difficult of approach or finding out.

If the reader will take a seat with us on the brow of Côte St. Luke, behind the present Fashion race course, above the Blue Bonnets, he will have a full view right below him, stretching over to the Dominion station, of the very identical spot of this historical Indian camp of 1689; on which this band of 1,500 savage Iroquois had their headquarters for over two months; the plunder of the Island of Montreal was carried there, and such of the inhabitants as were reserved for future torture were held there as captives.

#### THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF LACHINE.

This was a celebrated school between sixty and seventy years ago; it had a Government grant of £100 a year, and there was usually eighty boys attending it. The boys of the North-West and the Hudson Bay Company were sent down to be educated there, and there were always some twenty boys from Montreal as boarders. We could name a long list of North-West boys—the McKenzies, Keiths, McLeods, Seivewrights, McMurrays, McGillivrays, Rowands, &c. The late Doctor Rowand, of Quebec, was a scholar there; also the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario, the late Sir Alexander Campbell, was one of the boys there for two years. The most noted teacher was David Jones; he retired to Quebec in 1831 and died there.

The present Lachine school stands on the site of the old one. The parsonage of the Church of England is built close by it; the former school play-ground is now all built upon; and what was in the old time “open fields” is now covered by a village.

A picture of nearly three score years and ten is spread out before the writer as he stands in front of the spot upon which stood the old Grammar School of Lachine! Where are now the hundreds of sporting, laughing boys, joyous young fellows, who passed through this old school—as companions and play-mates of the writer in his young days? Well may we ask: Where are they? Few, very few of them are now living.

We stand there alone—nearly a picture of “Old Mortality” among the tombs; with a sad heart and very depressed feelings; whilst all around us, joined in merry play, are the new boys of



a new generation, totally unheedful of our presence. But we cannot forget the old school play-ground although we are forgotten there. There we stood—a silent, unnoticed spectator. The boys knew us not; we did not inform them that one of themselves of three generations back was among them taking notes and drawing comparisons between them and the boys of former days.

#### ANCHOR BAY, A.D. 1760.

This bay has no place on any map of Canada; it lives only in the memory of the few remaining boys of the old Grammar School of Lachine of sixty years ago, as associated with its historical anchors of 1760.

The bay was about three acres wide on the river shore between the Grammar School and the first locks built on the Lachine Canal; it stretched up to that old warehouse which still stands on the canal bank, just opposite to the Lachine Convent. This bay does not bear any resemblance to what it formerly was; the enlargement of the Lachine Canal and the extension of its banks eastwards have almost blotted this little bay entirely out of view.

The shores of the bay were lined with anchors—ship anchors—there were a great number; and besides these anchors the bay was filled with the remains of old boats—bateaux, barges, scows and other flat-bottomed boats, which were allowed to rot there. The anchors were removed by the Government about fifty years ago.

These anchors and the remains of the old boats belonged to the fleet which was prepared on the present American shore of the St. Lawrence, then British, near Kingston, in 1759 and 1760, by which General Amherst's army of about ten thousand men, was conveyed down the rapids of the St. Lawrence in September, 1760, and anchored in front and above Lachine.

The army then advanced on Montreal by the roads leading to the back of the mountain. Suffice it here to say that Montreal was captured, or rather capitulated, by which the whole of Canada, at the time of the cession, became, and has ever since remained, a British colony.

## A MONUMENT TO LA SALLE.

Canadians should bestir themselves and do something worthy the memory of La Salle.

Lachine is the only place in Canada in which he had a home. La Salle is the brightest figure either in Canadian or American history. Just fancy, two and a quarter centuries ago, a young Frenchman, an adventurous youth, starting from Lachine in his BARK CANOE, on a voyage of discovery almost romantic, traversing, or rather coasting, in his canoe, all of our great inland lakes, then over and through dense forests, untrod before by civilized man; down turbulent and then unknown rivers, even reaching the mouth of the great Mississippi! Where does history exhibit another such a character? Canada should be proud to do honour to her La Salle, and Canadians should vie with each other in paying a tribute of respect to his memory! There are two places at Lachine, either would do for a monument. The first is the site of Champlain's fur post of 1615, the other the site of the present windmill.

Truly, La Salle has left his foot-prints on the sands of Canada. Will Canadians allow them to be blotted out?

JOHN FRASER.

THE LA SALLE HOMESTEAD,  
LACHINE RAPIDS,  
CANADA.



